

Please delete present description of fig 4 on page 8, lines 8-17, and insert the following text in its place:

Figure 4 illustrates detection of unmethylated (maternally-inherited) fetal DNA in maternal plasma using DNA sequencing of bisulfite-treated DNA.

Figure 4a depicts portions of bisulfite-treated DNA sequencing profiles for the epigenetic marker in the IGF2-H19 locus, taken from maternal DNA and maternal plasma DNA of a pregnant woman in the third trimester of pregnancy, as indicated. As illustrated in figure 3, maternal DNA does not display The "A" peak indicative of unmethylated fetal DNA. Maternal plasma however shows both the maternal "G" peak and the fetal "A" peak, indicating the presence of fetal DNA in maternal plasma (indicated with an *).

Figure 4b illustrates detection of unmethylated fetal DNA (arrow) in third trimester maternal plasma samples using the methylation-specific PCR (MSP) assay. Nucleic acid sizes in nucleotides (nt) for reaction products are shown at the bottom of fig. 4b. The symbol ● indicates the unused primer peak, with □ indicating the detection of a polymorphism (G or A), as indicated in the figure.

Figure 4c illustrates detection of unmethylated fetal DNA (arrow) in a second trimester maternal plasma sample using the primer extension assay. Products from control reactions containing primer only and G/A polymorphisms are indicated in the same manner as described in fig. 4b.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner objects to an alleged presence of browser-executable code in the specification. Applicants have reviewed the specification and cannot identify the code to which the Examiner refers. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a specific cite to the code found objectionable.